

Butler Masonic Lodge (Parkison Building)
100 South Broadway
Butler
DeKalb County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-200

HABS
IND,
17-BUT,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
IND,
17-BUT,
1-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Indiana	COUNTY DeKalb	TOWN OR VICINITY City of Butler (1980 pop. 250)
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Butler Masonic Lodge (Source: J.M. Smith, Auburn, IN)		HABS NO. IN-200
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Parkison Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 100 South Broadway, Butler, Indiana 46721		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Circa 1870's Source: Property Abstract (abrupt increases in property value)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Architect is unknown. The members of the early Butler Masonic Lodge constructed the building	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) See Page 2		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Victorian Storefront/Italianate as defined predominantly by the round- arched windows on the second story. Source: J.M. Smith, SHPO, Indianapolis		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick/masonry exterior facing with limestone and decorative elements		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Two story rectangular shape (44' x 80') with flat roof and shallow basement. Building covers approximately 3500 square feet.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Upstairs brick-framed arch windows, typical of Italianate architecture. Decorative brick-work along roofline of front and side of building.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Hardwood floors (presently deteriorated), press-tin ceiling in upstairs (deteriorated), kitchen in upstairs. Pool/billiards upstairs. See sketch plan, Page 5		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1) Storefront picture windows added in 1930's for commercial appeal. 2) Two downstairs partitions were added in 1930's for commercial benefits, but were taken out by a later storekeeper.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Exterior condition is fair, but roof collapsing. Interior condition poor and deteriorating. Building is vacant because of hazardous condition.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Building was constructed over what was the original Butler Public Square. See pages 3 and 4		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) John Martin Smith - DeKalb County Historian, Auburn, IN Danny Macafee - Auburn Abstract Company, Auburn, IN James M. Ridenour - State Historic Preservation Officer, Indianapolis, IN Fort Wayne/Allen County Library, Ft. Wayne, IN and Butler local residents		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (Staff) Room 640 City/County Bldg., Fort Wayne, IN 46802		DATE September 13, 1983

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Information

The City of Butler was originally founded as "Norristown" in 1837 shortly after Indiana gained its Statehood in 1816. The name was subsequently changed to "Jarvis" and then "Butler Station". At this time, Butler station was a crossing center for three railroads, both passenger and freight.

It was not until 1863 that the community name became "Butler".

The Butler Masonic Lodge was constructed in the (circa) 1870's over what was part of the original Butler Town Square. The square was at the intersection of the two main roads running east/west and north/south.

The building was one of the first large structures in the community and was for many years the "keystone building". Its main function in the early days was as the meeting place for the Masons (men) and the Eastern Stars (female counterparts). Lodges were very popular in this era and it was common to meet in the upstairs of the building and rent the first floor out for commercial or civic purposes. In 1900, the "Oddfellows" organization built a similar type building in another part of Butler.

The building continued to function as the Butler Masonic Lodge up until 1968 when members purchased a modern one story building in another area. Throughout the late 1800's and up until the 1970's the downstairs of the building was also used as at least three different grocery stores and finally a television appliance outlet. Because of the deteriorated condition of the building in the last three decades, the building has been a vacant health hazard for the past year.

Project Information

The City of Butler is using Community Development Block Grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a downtown revitalization project. The project consists of the demolition of the Parkison Building, the rehabilitation of another downtown structure, and the provision of off-street parking facilities.

This "National Architectural and Engineering Record/Historic American Building Survey" and documentation record has been prepared in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.

See "Sources of Information" on Data Form for participating parties providing information and documentation for this report.

ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

References to the chain of title to the land upon which the structure stands are in the Office of the Recorder, DeKalb County Court House, Auburn, IN 46706. (It should be noted that a number of County Records were destroyed by fire on February 8, 1913.)

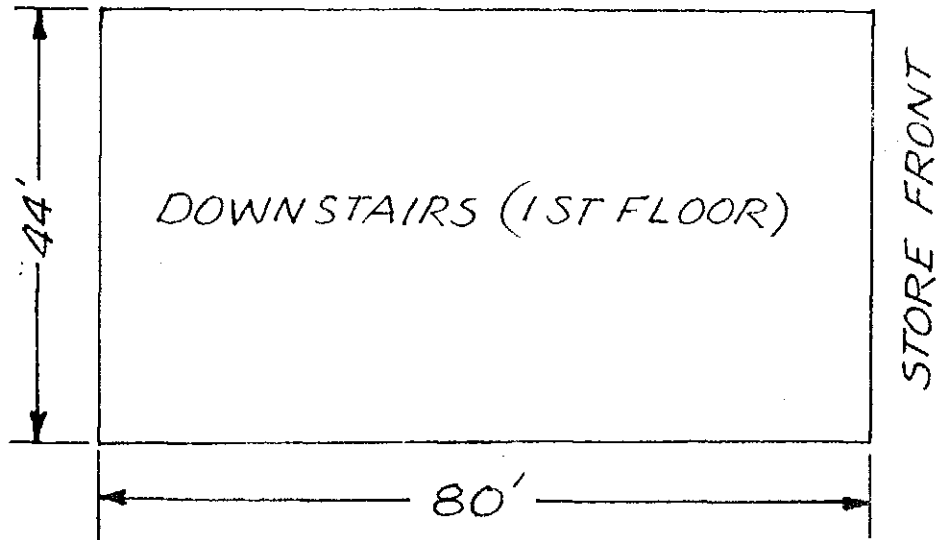
- 1864 Deed, November 29, 1864. Joseph R. Lanning to Samuel Haverstock.
- 1885 Deed, December 9, 1885. Half of land sold by Samuel Haverstock to Mary Sattison.
- 1886 Deed by inheritance, February 1, 1886. Samuel Haverstock estate to Jonathan Haverstock.
- 1890 Deed, March 1, 1890. Jonathan Haverstock sold remaining half to Mary Sattison.
- 1936 Deed by inheritance, February 19, 1936. Mary Sattison estate to Luther Higley.
- 1952 Deed by inheritance and family agreement, October 22, 1952. Luther Higley estate to Ruth Madonna Higley Goudy.
- 1965 Deed, May 28, 1965. Ruth Madonna Higley Goudy to Jerry A. Kaiser.
- 1970 Deed, August 28, 1970. Jerry A. Kaiser to Corwin Parkison.
- 1983 Deed, August 31, 1983. Corwin Parkison to the City of Butler.

SOURCES/REFERENCES

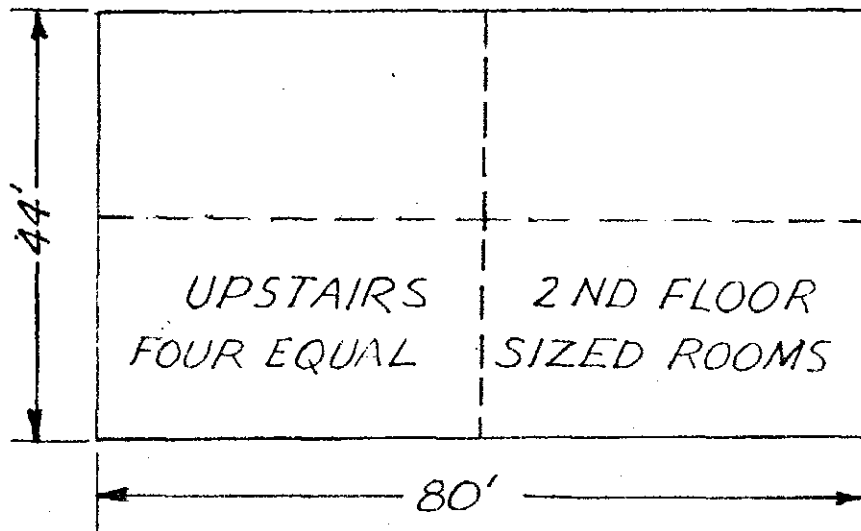
1. History of DeKalb County, B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc.,
Indianapolis, IN, c. 1914, Page 309. (Allen County Public Library)
2. History of DeKalb County, Interstate Publishing Company,
Chicago, IL, c. 1885, Page 966. (Allen County Public Library)
3. History of Northeast Indiana, Lewis Publishing Company,
Chicago, IL, c. 1920 (Allen County Public Library)
4. John Martin Smith, DeKalb County Historian, Auburn, IN
5. Danny Macaffee, Auburn Abstract Company, Auburn, IN
6. James M. Ridenour, Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer,
Indianapolis, IN.
7. Local Butler residents were able to provide some historical information
about the history of the area, building and uses of the building.

*FLOOR PLANS FOR PARKISON BUILDING
100 SOUTH BROADWAY, BUTLER INDIANA*

MAIN ST. U.S. 6



BROADWAY



*SEPTEMBER 13, 1983
DRAWN BY D.S. NIRCC
FORT WAYNE, IN.*